



CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING TASK FORCE

AUGUST 9TH, 2021

Present: Alicia Hanning, Astrid Newell, Beverly Porter, Brian Nelson, Carol Frazey, Escarleth DeLeon, Gregory Hansen, Jamie Desmul, Jen Wright, Mary Sewright, Melissa Isenhardt, Monica Koller, Ray Deck, Rosalva Santos-Guzman, Samya Lutz, Jed Holmes, Sterling Chick, Vesla Tonnesson, Urvasi Graham

Not Present: Anne Granberg, Chris Cochran, Debbie Ahl, Keith Montoya, Komal Shah, Mara Kelley, Mike Ford, Sarah Cook, Sativa Robertson, Silvia Johnson, Yarrow Greer

| Topic | Discussion/Outcome |
|---------|---|
| Welcome | <p>Introductions, land acknowledgement, housekeeping and review of agreements led by Lewin Consulting.</p> <p><u>Land Acknowledgement:</u></p> <p>I would like to begin our meeting by humbly acknowledging that we are meeting today on the ancestral and traditional territories of the People of the Salish Sea, who have lived in the Salish Sea basin and the North Cascades watershed from time immemorial, in particular the Lummi Nation, the Nooksack Tribe, and the Semiahmoo.</p> <p>May we be mindful of the inherent owners of this land, our children, who are the future stewards of the land and advocates for generations to come. May that truth guide our work and efforts to improve the well-being of all families and children, native and non-native, living in this beautiful county.</p> <p>This land acknowledgment is not meant to be a substitute for authentic relationship-building and understanding. It is meant to introduce us to one way we can show honor and respect for tribal sovereignty and tribal self-determination. Another way is to learn the history of the relationships between tribal nations and the U.S. government.</p> <p>At our last meeting Sarah Cook shared that the NWIC planned and did indeed host a solidarity walk on July 27 to honor the 215 children found buried in a mass grave at the Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia. The pain and trauma caused by boarding school programs in Canada is a history the U.S. shares as well. These were systematic programs to separate Native children from their families and eliminate their Native identity, language, and culture. Learning the history of Indian boarding schools and understanding their impacts is the first step toward justice. To that end, in June of this year, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland introduced the Indian Boarding School Initiative, which charges the Department to conduct a full investigation into U.S. boarding schools, including learning about possible student burial sites, stories from boarding school survivors and their families, and review of the Department's own records regarding oversight and implementation of boarding school programs. I realize that I have coupled a heavy topic with our land acknowledgement today but an important part of moving forward is acknowledging the past. Michaela Vendiola, Tribal Liaison for the North Sound ACH, has created a page on the ACH website with news, updates, and resources related to Indian Residential Schools. First and foremost, it includes information about the Indian Residential School Survivors and Family Crisis Line available 24 hours a day. 1-866-925-4419.</p> <p><u>Agreements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family and self-care come first. • Be kind and gentle with yourself and others and assume everyone is coming from a positive place. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Everyone has the best intentions. ○ Listen with an open mind and heart. • Be mindful of this space. Step-in and step-out/Step-up and step-back. Offer your truth and insights and listen to others' truths and insights. • Treat each other with honor and grace. We are all working under difficult circumstances. |



| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embrace diversity. Remember that we all come from different backgrounds giving us different perspectives and only when we embrace that diversity can we develop creative solutions to address the child and family well-being needs in Whatcom County. What is said here stays here. Have fun. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Approve Meeting Minutes | No amendments to discuss, minutes from July 26 th , 2021 were approved as presented. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Upcoming events, community shares and shout outs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Whatcom County Council meeting on August 10th at 2:05pm an opportunity to learn about the COVID Impact Assessment, and hear Executive Sidhu's recommendations for ARPA funding. https://zoom.us/j/93094152896?pwd=VncvSDRFdUNKQ21ibjU5am54dENKdz09 Kendall Summerfest August 3rd at East Whatcom Regional Resource Center was a success. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Follow-up to meeting cancellation decision-making and survey responses | <p>At last meeting in June the task force meeting was cancelled based on decisions made from those that attended the first few minutes of the meeting, in relation to extreme heat. It was shared that clarity was needed on how to decide when to cancel a meeting, and under what criteria. A survey was conducted to gather information on this topic.</p> <p>What events should be cause for possible meeting cancelation? 15 responses</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Event</th> <th>Count</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Extreme Heat</td> <td>12</td> <td>80%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Power Outages</td> <td>12</td> <td>80%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Snow</td> <td>10</td> <td>66.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Holidays</td> <td>14</td> <td>93.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Smoke</td> <td>1</td> <td>6.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Open to what this could entail</td> <td>1</td> <td>6.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Power outage if it's widespread...</td> <td>1</td> <td>6.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>I say snow if I am having to get...</td> <td>1</td> <td>6.7%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Other suggestions were shared, including electing co-chairs for such decisions. This was intentionally delayed as we build relationships, and will continue to consider transferring leadership from staff to task force members with a goal by the end of the year. Through this process we will continue to build and adapt the processes.</p> | Event | Count | Percentage | Extreme Heat | 12 | 80% | Power Outages | 12 | 80% | Snow | 10 | 66.7% | Holidays | 14 | 93.3% | Smoke | 1 | 6.7% | Open to what this could entail | 1 | 6.7% | Power outage if it's widespread... | 1 | 6.7% | I say snow if I am having to get... | 1 | 6.7% |
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| Update from Resource and Funding Group | <p>The Resource and Funding Group is continuing to work on fiscal mapping in parallel with the recommendations on how to use some of the American Rescue Plan funds to address local childcare challenges.</p> <p>A draft has been created of a framework the group is embracing as they continue to gather resources for response to the request by Whatcom County Council. Current work is to complete it, hopeful to bring it back to this task force to the Sept 13th meeting which will give the full group two meetings before it must be submitted to Whatcom County Council.</p> <p>If any recommendations or information needed to share you can get it to Judy to bring to the group, and if you wish to attend please connect with Judy to avoid accidental quorum with this workgroup. Judy Ziels at jziels@whatcomcounty.us</p> <p>At the next meetings the time will be designed to allow for workgroups to come together and share out as a whole.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Public Comment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Closing | 4:27 pm, work groups were opened | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Next Meeting | <p>Next regular meeting: August 23rd, 2021</p> <p><u>Location: Virtual</u></p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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